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But this is a doctrine which will never go down long with any nation; and those interested in the continuance of abuses are upon their last legs when compelled to avow them. They call us factious, desperate men. Their idea of a good citizen is just the reverse of Solon's; he thought it criminal not to take a part in the political interests of the community. These modern Solons appear to think, that this selfish apathy is the perfection of patriotism, or only inferior to those "ardent minds" whose zeal outruns discretion in obedience to the powers that be, so let the "Devil be honoured for his burning throne."

"For my part, I shall ever think, that the best virtue consists in maintaining human liberty, and the best virtue of an Englishman in an intrepid support of the common rights of Englishmen; and I should think I ill performed my duty to God or my neighbour, did I not dare to make use of the reason God has given me, or had not manliness to utter the result of it.

"With these sentiments, and with the utmost gratitude and devotion, I beg leave to subscribe myself,

"Gentlemen,
"Your obedient, humble servant,
"F. BURDETT."

VACCINATION.

*Royal College of Surgeons.**

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, deeply impressed with the many fatal instances of the Small-pox which have lately happened, and which daily occur, in the metropolis and in various towns of the kingdom; convinced that such events are, in a great degree, consequences of

* To exhibit the benefits of Vaccination, the following accounts are subjoined.

A Report has been lately made to the class of physical sciences of the Imperial Institute, by which it is stated, that out of 2,671,662 persons vaccinated in France, only 7 authenticated cases appear of patients having afterwards taken the small-pox.

By the Glasgow bills of mortality, it appears, that 49 persons died by the small-pox in 1811, and in 1812 only 24 persons. But prior to the introduction of Vaccination, several hundreds annually died of the small-pox.

the support and propagation of that disease by inoculation; and fully satisfied of the safety and security of Vaccination; from a consequent sense of duty to the community, do hereby engage ourselves, to each other and to the public, not to inoculate the small-pox, unless, for some special reason, after Vaccination; but to pursue, and, to the utmost of our power, promote the practice of Vaccination. And further, we do recommend to all the members of the College, of correspondent opinions and sentiments of duty, to enter into similar engagements.

Master, Thomson Forster.

Governors, Everard Home, Wm. Blizard.

Assistants.

James Earle.	William Norris.
G. Chandler.	James Ware.
Charles Blicke.	J. A. Hawkins.
T. Keate.	P. Knight.
J. Heaviside.	Ludford Harvey.
Henry Cline.	William Lynn.
David Dundas.	John Abernethy.
John Charlton.	

Lincoln's Inn Fields, 7th April, 1813.

PETITION FROM LEICESTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

A requisition was lately signed by forty of the most respectable inhabitants of Leicester, to Mr. Fox, the mayor, to convene a public meeting for the purpose of petitioning Parliament for a repeal of the triennial and septennial acts. Mr. Fox having, as the head of a close corporation, refused to grant the request, a meeting took place at the Bowling green, at which Walter Ruding, Esq. presided. After speeches, which evinced great learning and ability, from Mr. Ruding and Mr. Ryley, some spirited Resolutions were agreed to, together with the following petition, which is admirably drawn, and contains a condensed view of the wishes and arguments of the petitioners.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom. The Humble Petition of the inhabitants of Leicester,

Showeth,

That the House of Commons, as at present constituted, doth not fully and fairly represent the people of England, nor speak their sentiments, according to what your petitioners conceive to be the principles of the constitution, which they consider as a grievance, and therefore, with all be-

coming respect, lay their complaint before your honourable house.

In affirming that your honourable house is not an adequate representation of the people of England your petitioners do but state a fact, which, if the word "Representation" be accepted in its fair and obvious sense, they are ready to prove, and which they think detrimental to their interests, and contrary to the spirit of the constitution.

How far this inadequate representation is prejudicial to their interests, your petitioners apprehend, they may be allowed to decide for themselves; but how far it is contrary to the spirit of the constitution, they refer to the consideration of your honourable house.

Your petitioners complain, that the elective franchise is so partially and so unequally distributed, that it is only exercised once in seven years; that the right of voting is regulated by no uniform or rational principle; and that the majority of your honourable house is elected by less than the two-hundredth part of the people to be represented.

Of the complicated rights of voting, your petitioners have also a great reason to complain, for, from the caprice with which they have been varied, and the obscurity in which they are now involved by time and contradictory decisions, they are become a source of infinite confusion, litigation, and expense; for the management and conduct of polls is committed to returning officers, who, from the nature of the proceedings, must be invested with extensive and discretionary powers, and who, it appears by every volume of your Journals, have but too often exercised those powers with the most gross partiality, and the most scandalous corruption.

Of elections arranged with such little regard to the accommodation of the parties; acknowledged to require such a length of time to complete, and trusted to the superintendence of such suspicious agents, your petitioners might easily draw out a detail of the enormous expense; and, in addition to this, they cannot but notice, with abhorrence, the destruction of public morals, by the shameful and almost general system of perjury, bribery, and corruption, which is not only practised with the most unblushing effrontery, but attempted to be justified, and even gloried in, to the eternal disgrace of the parties.

Your petitioners likewise complain of

that extensive system of private patronage, which is so repugnant to the spirit of free representation, an encroaching evil, and an abuse which obviously tends to exclude the great mass of the people from any substantial influence in the election of the House of Commons, and which, in its progress, threatens to usurp the sovereignty of the country, to the equal danger of the King, the Lords, and the Commons.

Your petitioners are more alarmed at the progress of private patronage, because it is rapidly leading to consequences which menace the very existence of the constitution; because it tends to overthrow the independence of the House of Commons; and because it gives to individuals that unjust property, in the liberty of their fellow citizens, which no individual ought to possess.

Anxious to restore, and preserve in its original purity, a constitution they love and admire, your petitioners beseech your honourable house to take such measures as to your wisdom may seem meet, to remove the evils arising from the present unequal, unjust, and ruinous state of the representation; and to regulate the right of voting upon an uniform and equitable principle; and finally, to shorten the duration of Parliaments; and by removing the causes of that confusion, litigation, and expense, with which they are at present conducted, to render new and frequent elections, what their ancestors at the Revolution asserted them to be, the means of a happy union and good agreement between the King and people.

TREATY OF UTRECHT, ARTICLE 18th.

"It shall be lawful for all and singular the subjects of the Queen of Great Britain, and of the Most Christian King, to sail with their ships, with all manner of liberty and security, no distinctions being made who are the proprietors of the merchandize laden thereon from any port to the places of those who are now, or shall hereafter be, at enmity with the Queen of Great Britain, or of the Most Christian King; it shall likewise be lawful for the subjects and inhabitants aforesaid to sail with the ships and merchandize aforementioned, and to trade with the same liberty and security from the places, ports, and havens of those who are enemies of both or of either party, without any opposition or disturbance whatsoever, not only directly from the places of the ene-

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